



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/864,183	05/25/2001	Yutaka Satoh	029471-0150	2347

22428 7590 12/24/2003

FOLEY AND LARDNER
SUITE 500
3000 K STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20007

EXAMINER

CHEUNG, MARY DA ZHI WANG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3621

DATE MAILED: 12/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/864,183

Applicant(s)

SATOH, YUTAKA

Examiner

Mary Cheung

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 May 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1-2, 4-6, 9, 12-17, 19 and 21-23 are objected to because of the following informalities:

- a) In line 3 of claim 1, the symbol “;” should be “.”;
- b) In line 4 of claim 2, the phrase “at leaset service” should be “service”;
- c) In line 9 of claim 2, the phrase “the service purchase request information” should be “the purchase service request information”;
- d) In lines 12-13 of claim 2, the phrase “the service purchase request information” should be “the purchase service request information”;
- e) In lines 9-10 of claim 4, the phrase “the service offering registration information” should be “service offering registration information”;
- f) In lines 16-17 of claim 4, the phrase “the service purchaser identification information” should be “service purchaser identification information”;
- g) In lines 24-25 of claim 4, the phrase “said service offering information” should be “said service offering registration information”;
- h) In line 30 of claim 4, the phrase “the service request information” should be “service purchase request information”;
- i) In lines 12, 19, 27, 38, 41 of claim 4, the phrase “the network” should be “the communication network”;
- j) In line 1 of claim 5, the phrase “Claim 3” should be “claim 4” because the substep (i) follows the substep (h) in claim 4;

- k) In lines 8-9, the phrase of claim 6, "the service offering" should be "service offering";
- l) In lines 12-14 of claim 9, the phrase "the service offering registration information on the service offering registration entry display" should be "service offering registration information on a service offering registration entry display";
- m) In lines 18-19 of claim 9, the phrase "the purchaser identification information on the service purchaser registration entry display" should be "purchaser identification information on a service purchaser registration entry display";
- n) In line 29 of claim 9, the phrase "the service offering information" should be "service offering information";
- o) In lines 32-33 of claim 9, the phrase "the service purchase information" should be "service purchase information";
- p) In line 21 of claim 12, the phrase "the terms" should be "terms";
- q) In lines 22-23 of claim 12, the phrase "the desired service" should be "desired service";
- r) In line 2 of claim 13, the phrase "information display" should be "entry display";
- s) In line 2 of claim 14, the phrase "registration display" should be "registration entry display";
- t) In line 3 of claim 15, the phrase "the service provider names" should be "service provider names";

- u) In lines 3-4 of claim 16, the phrase "the service provider names" should be "service provider names";
 - v) In line 9 of claim 17, the phrase "a service purchaser" should be "a service purchase";
 - w) In lines 17-18 of claim 19, the phrase "the service offering information" should be "service offering information";
 - x) In line 22 of claim 19, the phrase "the service" should be "service";
 - y) In line 32 of claim 19, the phrase "the decision" should be "a decision";
 - z) In line 41 of claim 19, the phrase "the agreement" should be "agreement";
 - aa) In line 11 of claim 21, the phrase "the service" should be "service";
 - bb) In line 14 of claim 21, the phrase "the service" should be "service";
 - cc) In line 16 of claim 21, the phrase "the desired" should be "a desired";
 - dd) In line 24 of claim 21, the phrase "the decision" should be "a decision";
 - ee) In line 26 of claim 22, the phrase "the terms" should be "terms";
 - ff) In lines 1-2 of claim 23, the phrase "The program product as defined in Claim 20, wherein said program product comprises the steps of" should be "The mediator server apparatus as defined in claim 20, further comprising".
- Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 15 recites the limitation "said service provider list-selection display" in lines 1-2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-14 and 17-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Murcko, Jr., U. S. Patent 6,578,014.

As to claim 1, Murcko teaches a method for allowing a mediator server (*system operator 200 in Fig. 1*) to act as an intermediary agent between a service provider (*seller's interface in Fig. 1*) and a service purchaser (*buyer's interface in Fig. 1*) comprising the steps of (column 12 lines 6-11 and column 13 lines 33-36 and Fig. 1):

a) Providing a mediator server communicatable with at least one service provider and at least one service purchaser through their respective terminals over a communication network (column 12 lines 6-11 and column 13 lines 33-36 and Fig. 1),

- b) Receiving at said mediator server service offering information including the service provider's name, offered services and other information from said service provider (column 13 lines 33-36 and column 32 lines 59-61 and Figs. 2, 5a-6b, 20, 23),
- c) Forwarding said service offering information to said service purchaser from said mediator server (column 13 lines 33-36 and column 28 lines 14-20 and column 32 lines 59-63 and column 33 line 47 – column 34 line 19 and Figs. 1-2, 18, 23-24),
- d) At said mediator server receiving purchase service request information including the service purchaser's name, service being purchased and other information from said service purchaser (column 21 lines 14-33 and column 22 lines 59-60 and column 23 lines 5-7 and Figs. 8-9, 12),
- e) Forwarding said purchase service request information to said service provider from said mediator server, wherein said mediator server acts as an intermediary agent between the service provider and the service purchaser (column 13 lines 33-36 and column 33 line 47 – column 34 line 19 and Figs. 1-2, 18, 24).

As to claim 2, Murcko further teaches:

- a) Wherein upon receiving the service offering information from service providers, said mediator server forwards a listing of service providers, offered services and associated information to service purchaser's terminal (column 13 lines 33-36 and column 26 lines 51-56 and column 28 lines 14-17 and Figs. 1, 18);

- b) Said mediator server allows said service purchaser to select a particular service provider from said listing displayed on the service purchaser's terminal, there upon said mediator server forwards the service purchase request information to said particular service provider selected by said service purchaser for display on said service provider's terminal (column 13 lines 33-36 and column 26 lines 6-23 and column 33 line 47 – column 34 line 19 and Figs. 1, 16-18, 24);
- c) Through said mediator server and based on the service purchase request information displayed on the service provider's terminal, said service provider is allowed to accept the service purchase request, there upon to reach an agreement between said particular service provider and said service purchaser (column 13 lines 33-36 and column 28 lines 7-10 and column 29 lines 47-56 and column 33 line 47 – column 34 line 19 and column 37 lines 28-30 and Figs. 1-2, 18, 24).

As to claims 3 and 8, Murcko further teaches several kinds of currencies are applicable when the service offered by said service provider and received by said service purchaser is paid for (column 29 lines 2-3).

As to claim 4, Murcko teaches a method for allowing a mediator server (*system operator 200 in Fig. 1*) to act as an intermediary agent between a service provider (*seller's interface in Fig. 1*) and a service purchaser (*buyer's interface in Fig. 1*) when services are sold and purchased between the service provider and service purchaser wherein said mediator server, said service provider and said service purchaser can communicate with each other through their respective terminals over a communication

network and wherein said method includes the steps of (column 12 lines 6-11 and column 13 lines 33-36 and Fig. 1):

- a) Allowing said service provider to send the service offering registration information from said service provider's terminal, referred to as "provider terminal" to said mediator server over the network (Figs. 1-2, 6a-6b, 20, 23);
- b) Allowing said mediator server to record, in a database (*data storage device 220 in Fig. 2*), the service offering registration information received from said provider terminal (Figs. 1-2, 6a-6b, 20, 23);
- c) Allowing said service purchaser to send the service purchaser identification information from said service purchaser's terminal, referred to as "purchaser terminal" to said mediator server over the network (Figs. 1-2, 7a-7b, 13, 17);
- d) Allowing said mediator server to record, in said database, the service purchaser identification information received from said purchaser terminal (Figs. 1-2, 7a-7b, 13, 17);
- e) Allowing said service purchaser to select a particular service purchase information from said service offering information displayed on said purchaser terminal, and send the selected service purchase information from said purchaser terminal to said mediator server over the network (column 13 lines 33-36 and column 26 lines 6-23 and column 29 lines 22-27 and Figs. 1-2, 8, 16-18, 24);
- f) In response to said service purchase information received from said service purchaser, allowing said mediator server to create the service purchase request

information for forwarding it to the service provider selected by said service purchaser for display on said provider terminal (column 13 lines 33-36 and column 33 line 47 – column 34 line 19 and Figs. 1, 8, 24);

g) Allowing said service provider, based on the service purchase request information received from said mediator server and displayed on said provider terminal, to make a decision on whether said service provider should accept or decline the service purchase request, and to notify the resulting decision to said mediator server over the network (column 13 lines 33-36 and column 28 lines 7-10 and column 29 lines 47-56 and column 33 line 47 – column 34 line 19 and column 37 lines 28-30 and Figs. 1-2, 18, 24);

h) Allowing said mediator server to forward said decision received from said service provider to said service purchaser over the network, wherein if the decision made by said service provider is to accept the service purchase request, it is determined that an agreement is reached between said service provider and said service purchaser, and the service is supplied from said service provider to said service purchaser (column 13 lines 33-36 and column 28 lines 7-10 and column 29 lines 21-56 and column 33 line 47 – column 34 line 19 and Figs. 1-2, 18, 24).

As to claims 5 and 11, Murcko further teaches said service purchaser to pay said service provider for the service supplied by said service provider and received by said service purchaser when it is completed, wherein said service purchaser and said service provider may optionally select any one among several different currencies

agreed upon by said service provider and said service purchaser to pay for the service received (column 29 lines 2-3, 40-56).

As to claim 6, Murcko teaches a service transaction mediating system for allowing a mediator server (*system operator 200 in Fig. 1*) to act as an intermediary agent in service transaction between a service provider (*seller's interface in Fig. 1*) and a service purchaser (*buyer's interface in Fig. 1*), wherein (column 12 lines 6-11 and column 13 lines 33-36 and Fig. 1)

- a) Said mediator server, service providers and service purchasers are communicatable with each other through their respective terminals over a communication network (column 13 lines 33-36 and Fig. 1);
- b) Said mediator server includes a database (*data storage device 220 in Fig. 2*) on which the service offering registration information submitted by said service provider is recorded (Figs. 1-2, 6a-6b, 20, 23);
- c) Said mediator server includes means for allowing said mediator server to send a listing of services offered from said service providers and recorded on said database to any of said service purchasers and for allowing said service purchaser to select any particular service provider from said listing being displayed on said service purchaser's terminal, whereby said service purchaser and said service provider may use their respective terminal to conduct the service transaction through said mediator server (column 13 lines 33-36 and column 26 lines 6-23 and column 29 lines 22-27, 43-56 and Figs. 1-2, 16-18, 24).

As to claim 7, Murcko further teaches:

Art Unit: 3621

a) Means for allowing said service provider to make a decision on whether said service provider should accept or decline the service purchase request, based on said service purchase request information being displayed on said service provider's terminal, and for allowing said service provider to notify the decision to said mediator server (column 13 lines 33-36 and column 28 lines 7-10 and column 29 lines 47-56 and column 33 line 47 – column 34 line 19 and column 37 lines 28-30 and Figs. 1-2, 18, 24);

b) Means for allowing said mediator server to forward the notification of said decision received from said service provider to said service purchaser (column 13 lines 33-36 and column 28 lines 7-10 and column 29 lines 21-56 and column 33 line 47 – column 34 line 19 and Figs. 1-2, 18, 24).

As to claims 9, 19 and 21, Murcko teaches a transaction mediating system, a mediator server apparatus, and a computer readable program product for allowing a mediator server (*system operator 200 in Fig. 1*) to act as an intermediary agent on service transaction between a service provider (*seller's interface in Fig. 1*) and a service purchaser (*buyer's interface in Fig. 1*) comprising (column 12 lines 6-11 and column 13 lines 33-36 and Fig. 1):

I) A terminal used by a service provider, referred to as "provider terminal" (Fig. 1);

II) A terminal used by a service purchaser referred to as "purchaser terminal" (Fig. 1);

III) A mediator server having a database (*data storage device 220 in Fig. 2*) and being connectable to said provider terminal and to said purchaser terminal over a network, wherein (Figs. 1-2)

- a) Said provider terminal includes means for allowing said service provider to provide the service offering registration information on the service offering registration entry display appearing on said provider terminal, and to send said service offering registration information to said mediator server over the network (Figs. 1-2, 6a-6b, 20, 23);
- b) Said purchaser terminal includes means for allowing said service purchaser to provide the purchaser identification information on the service purchaser registration entry display appearing on said purchaser terminal, and to send said purchaser identification information to said mediator server over said computer network (Figs. 1-2, 7a-7b, 13-14, 17);
- c) Said mediator server includes means for allowing said mediator server to record the service offering registration information received from said provider terminal and the purchaser identification information received from said purchaser terminal on said database (Figs. 1-2, 6a-7b)
- d) Said purchaser terminal further includes means for displaying the service offering information received from said mediator server on said purchaser terminal, and for allowing said service purchaser to identify and select a service to be purchased from the service offering information, to enter the service purchase information including the identified and

selected service, and to send the service purchase information to said mediator server over the network (column 13 lines 33-36 and column 26 lines 6-23 and column 29 lines 22-27, 43-56 and Figs. 1-2, 8, 16-18, 24);

e) Said mediator server further includes means for allowing said mediator server to produce a service purchase request information from said service purchase information received from said purchaser terminal, and forward the service purchase request information to the service provider of the selected service for display on said provider terminal (column 13 lines 33-36 and column 33 line 47 – column 34 line 19 and Figs. 1, 8, 24);

f) Said provider terminal further includes means for allowing said service provider, based on said service purchase request information displayed on said provider terminal, to make a decision on whether said service provider should accept or decline said service purchase request, and to send the information for the decision back to said mediator server (column 13 lines 33-36 and column 28 lines 7-10 and column 29 lines 47-56 and column 33 line 47 – column 34 line 19 and column 37 lines 28-30 and Figs. 1-2, 18, 24);

g) Said mediator server further includes means for recording the decision information received from said service provider on said database, and means for notifying the decision to said service purchaser (column 13 lines 33-36 and column 28 lines 7-10 and column 29 lines 21-56 and column 33 line 47 – column 34 line 19 and Figs. 1-2, 8, 18, 24),

h) Whereby said service purchaser may be ready to receive the service offered by said service provider when said service provider makes the decision to accept the service purchase request submitted by said service purchaser (column 13 lines 33-36 and column 28 lines 7-10 and column 29 lines 21-56 and column 33 line 47 – column 34 line 19 and Figs. 1-2, 18, 24).

As to claims 10, 20 and 23-24, Murcko further teaches wherein:

a) Said mediator server further includes means for allowing said mediator server to generate a registration number to be assigned to the service provider prior to recording said service offering registration information on said database, to record the service provider registration number together with said service offering registration information on said database, and to send said service provider registration number to said service provider for display on said provider terminal (column 17 lines 54-55 and column 22 lines 24-33 and column 26 lines 40-50 and Figs. 2, 6a-6b, 20-21; *specifically the service provider registration number corresponds to Seller ID in Murcko's teaching*);

b) Said mediator server further includes means for allowing said mediator server to generate a registration number to be assigned to the service purchaser prior to recording the purchaser identification information on said database, to record the service purchaser registration number together with said purchaser identification information on said database, and to send said service purchaser registration number to said service purchaser for display on said purchaser terminal (column

19 lines 41-42 and column 22 lines 24-33 and column 26 lines 40-50 and Figs. 2, 7a-7b, 14-15; *specifically the service purchaser registration number corresponds to Buyer ID in Murcko's teaching*),

c) Said purchaser terminal allows said service purchaser to have access to said mediator server by using said service purchaser registration number (column 25 lines 37-42);

d) Said provider terminal allows said service provider to have access to said mediator server by using said service provider registration number (column 32 lines 1-6).

As to claims 12 and 22, Murcko further teaches:

a) On the purchaser terminal, when the service offering information is received from said mediator server, a service type list-selection display on which service types offered by said service provider are listed is displayed (column 28 lines 14-17 and Figs. 16-18);

b) The purchaser terminal allows said service purchaser to select a service type from said service type list-selection display, and optionally select a particular service item from service items listed in the service type selected (Figs. 16-18);

c) In response to the selection made on said purchaser terminal, said mediator server is caused to access said database in order to search for the information for the service providers that offer the service type and/or service item selected by said service purchaser, and if found, is caused to edit said service provider information to produce a service provider list-selection display, and send the

service provider list-selection display to said purchaser terminal for display
(column 26 lines 6-23 and Figs. 16-18);

d) The purchaser terminal allows said service purchaser to select a service provider that offers the service being purchased from said service provider list-selection display, and optionally enter the terms and conditions under which the service is to be purchased, wherein upon confirmation of the desired service, the service purchase information is transferred to said mediator server (column 28 line 14 – column 29 line 56 and Figs. 1-2, 16-18).

As to claim 13, Murcko teaches wherein the service offering registration information display on said provider terminal contains the following entry fields: the name of the service provider, the location of the service provider to contact, the contents and price of the offered service, and the currency designated for use in paying for the service offered (column 29 lines 2-3, 47-56 and column 33 line 47 – column 34 line 34 and Figs. 18, 24-25).

As to claim 14, Murcko teaches wherein the service purchaser registration display on said purchaser terminal contains the following entry fields: the name of the service purchaser, the location of the service purchaser to contact, the content of the purchased service, and the currency designated for use in paying for the service received (column 29 lines 2-3, 47-56 and Fig. 18).

As to claim 17, Murcko teaches a mediator server apparatus (*system operator 200 in Fig. 1*), said mediator server apparatus being connectable to service provider terminals (*seller's interface in Fig. 1*) and to service purchaser terminals (*buyer's*

interface in Fig. 1) over a network and comprising (column 12 lines 6-11 and column 13 lines 33-36 and Fig. 1):

- a) Means for allowing said mediator server to record services offered by said service provider terminal on a database (Figs. 2, 5a-11; *specifically, "a database" corresponds to data storage device in Fig. 1*);
- b) Means for allowing said mediator server to send a list of service providers to a service purchaser for display on said service purchaser terminal so that said service purchaser can select a service purchase from the list of service providers being displayed on said service purchaser terminal (column 13 lines 33-36 and Figs. 16-18);
- c) Means for allowing said mediator server to send a service purchase request information for the service selected by said service purchaser to said service provider for display on said service provider terminal (column 13 lines 33-36 and column 33 line 47 – column 34 line 19 and Fig. 24).

As to claim 18, Murcko further teaches

- a) Said service provider terminal includes means for allowing the service provider to make a decision on whether said service provider should accept or decline the service purchase request, based on the service purchase request information received from said mediator server (column 13 lines 33-36 and column 28 lines 7-10 and column 29 lines 47-56 and column 33 line 47 – column 34 line 19 and column 37 lines 28-30 and Figs. 1-2, 18, 24),

b) Said mediator server apparatus further includes means for allowing the mediator server to forward the decision made by said service provider to said service purchaser over a communication medium (column 13 lines 33-36 and column 28 lines 7-10 and column 29 lines 47-56 and column 33 line 47 – column 34 line 19 and column 37 lines 28-30 and Figs. 1-2, 18, 24).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murcko, Jr., U. S. Patent 6,578,014.

As to claim 15, Murcko teaches wherein said service provider list-selection display contains the following fields: the service provider names, locations to contact and offered unit prices (Figs. 18, 23).

Murcko does not explicitly teach said service list-selection display including the following entry fields: the start date and hours on and during which the service is desired to be received from the service provider selected from the list. However, Murcko teaches said service list-selection display including item description, and the mediator allows the purchaser to request additional information from the service provider regarding the item (column 29 lines 27-29 and Fig. 18). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to allow the service list-selection display in

Murcko's teaching to include start data and hours on and during which the service is desired to be received from the service provider (e.g. to be included in the item description or the reply to the request additional information from the service provider) for better meet the purchaser's purchase criteria.

As to claim 16, Murcko teaches said service purchase request information display contains a list of service providers, including the following fields: the service provider names, and location to contact, and further includes a service provider registration number entry field and action fields (Figs. 18).

Murcko does not explicitly teach said service purchase request information display contains service start date, location where the service is offered, and service days and hours. However, Murcko teaches said service purchase request information display including item description, and the mediator allows the purchaser to request additional information from the service provider regarding the item (column 29 lines 27-29 and Fig. 18). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to allow the service purchase request information display in Murcko's teaching to include service start date, location where the service is offered, and service days and hours (e.g. to be included in the item description or the reply to the request additional information from the service provider) for better meet the purchaser's purchase criteria.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Walker et al. (U. S. Patent 6,249,772) discloses a buyer purchases a product at a first price and acquires the product from a merchant that offers the product for sale at a second price.

Shkedy (U. S. Patent 6,260,024) discloses providing global bilateral buyer-driven system for creating binding contracts by incorporating various methods of communications.

Herman et al. (U. S. Patent 6,341,353) discloses a smart electronic receipt system that provides intelligent receipts that electronically document a transaction between two parties and maintains a persistent connection between two parties.

Ogilvie (U. S. Patent 6,343,738) discloses providing sampling, escrowing, and other tools and techniques for facilitating transactions that involve digital goods.

Anthias et al. (EP 0 984 359 A2) discloses resources for shared access over a network.

Inquire

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mary Cheung whose telephone number is (703)-305-0084. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell, can be reached on (703) 305-9768.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceedings is assigned are as follows:

(703) 872-9306 (Official Communications; including After Final
Communications labeled "BOX AF")

(703) 746-5619 (Draft Communications)

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive, 7th Floor Receptionist.

Mary Cheung
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3621
December 12, 2003

